

MDW Pam 360-1

A Military Family Guide
for
Bosnia-Herzegovina
Deployments




December 1996

MDW PAM 360-1

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DISTRIBUTION: A, B, C, D (as pertains to military personnel alerted for deployment, their family members and staff support agencies)

A Military Family Guide to Bosnia-Herzegovina was produced by the Military District of Washington Public Affairs Office with the help of information provided by U.S. Army Europe. It is published as a Command Information booklet under authority of AR 360-81 for the Army's internal audience.

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PART I - GENERAL

Introduction

As units and individual soldiers in the National Capital Area are called to service in Bosnia, the Military District of Washington stands ready to support the family members left behind.

A number of programs, ranging from financial assistance to chaplain counseling are available to help families deal with the absence of sponsors.

This pamphlet is intended to serve as an introduction to those programs. The information herein is not all conclusive. Soldier and family members are encouraged to enlighten themselves through other available sources.

Army Community Service

Staffs at MDW installations are ready to support the families of active-duty and reserve-component soldiers who deploy overseas.

Army Reserve and National Guard soldiers and their families are eligible for ACS services upon the service-members' activation. ACS can be called as soon as as soon as the service member, or his or her unit, is alerted for deployment.

ACS is in its 30th year of helping service mem-

bers and their families. The organization offers the following services:

— **Financial Assistance:** budget planning, consumer information, emergency loans and grants, and emergency food assistance

— **Relocation Assistance:** welcome packets, loan-closet items and computerized information on next PCS site

— **Information and Referral Services**

— **Family-member Employment Assistance**

— **Exceptional-family-member Services**

— **Family Team-building Programs**

Army Community Service Addresses

— Fort Myer Military Community ACS is in Building 201 at Fort Myer. The phone number is (703) 696-3510.

— Fort Meade ACS is in Building 3179 and the phone number is (301) 677-5590.

— Fort Ritchie ACS is in buildings 326 and 327 and the phone number is (301) 878-5100.

— Fort Belvoir ACS is in Building 1169 and the phone number is (703) 805-4590.

A soldier might go into ACS at 3:30 in on a Friday afternoon, and say, "I have to leave tomorrow. We don't have any food in the house. We're going to be evicted, and I can't leave my family like this."

ACS can help them through that kind of crisis.

But ACS also wants to do some preventive work and not just put "band-aids" on problems.

ACS is ready to help families be productive and cohesive so they don't get into as many binds in the future."

"A number of family-support groups are already in place to help families experiencing the deployment of their sponsors. ACS is anxious to help families link-up with those groups, or form groups where none exist," an ACS director said, "and ACS will continue to help families help themselves as has been the tradition."

Legal assistance

While sponsors are deployed, family members are entitled to seek legal advice and assistance at military legal-assistance offices. These offices provide:

- Counseling and assistance with personal legal problems, such as; wills, powers of attorney, bills of sale, landlord/tenant problems, interpretation of leases, domestic relations, consumer problems, immigration and passports, notarizations, taxes and referral to other agencies or civilian lawyers

- Claims services, including: damage to household goods during shipment, vandalism, theft and unusual damage occurring on post, damage caused by government vehicles or government employees in the course of their jobs.

Legal Assistance Office numbers are:

Fort Myer (703) 696-0761

Fort Belvoir (703) 805-4018

Fort Meade (410) 677-9504

Fort Ritchie (301) 878-5771

Chaplain Support

Chaplains are fully qualified ministers, priests and rabbis endorsed by their respective religious bodies to provide appropriate ministry to service members and their families. Those who desire particular religious rites should contact their local chaplains.

Pastoral care is another way chaplains assist soldiers and family members. Chaplains visit work areas, hospitals and homes, and are in the field expressing care of the individual. At the same time, they are available to help his or her family members adapt to crisis conditions.

Working closely with Army Emergency Relief, American Red Cross and other community agencies, the chaplain can make appropriate referrals for assistance, whether it is for financial, health, marital or emergency-leave problems.

Phone numbers for MDW chaplains are:

Fort Myer (703) 696-3128

Fort Belvoir (703) 806-4316

Fort Meade (301) 677-6704

Fort Ritchie (301) 878-5146

American Red Cross

The American Red Cross aids sick and injured service members and their families. The Congressionally chartered organization also provides a broad program of social-welfare services, based on authentic need.

The ARC cooperates closely with the Army by supplementing and assisting the Army in programs related to health, welfare, recreation and morale of service members and their families.

Some of the services provided are:

- Verifying reports of illness, death or other family emergencies.
- Assisting with emergency and convalescent leaves.
- Financial support in the form of interest-free loans or grants of funds.
- Counseling and assisting with personal and family problems.
- Rapid communications in emergencies and birth announcements.
- Assistance to relatives visiting seriously ill patients.

Red Cross numbers within the MDW area are:
Fort Myer (703) 696-2709 or after 4 p.m. (202)
728-6499
Fort Meade (410) 674-3110
Fort Belvoir (703) 805-2057
Fort Ritchie (301) 739-0717 (Hagerstown, Md.)

Army Emergency Relief

Army Emergency Relief provides financial assistance to soldiers and their families in time of emergency need. AER is a private nonprofit organization that "helps the Army take care of its own."

Its sole mission is to help soldiers and their families. AER is authorized to give financial assistance for:

- Non-receipt of pay due to no fault of the individual.
- Loss of funds through theft or robbery. A police report is required.
- Medical, dental or hospital expenses, when the expenses are medically necessary (not elective), and when bills or required down payments may not be deferred by usual repayment means.

-
- Funeral expenses for military families.
 - Travel expenses due to emergency leave, convalescent leave or extraordinary costs essential to meet a port call or permanent change of station.
 - Rent or deposit expenses needed to prevent eviction or foreclosure, or for emergency shelter.
 - Food assistance to purchase food stamps or prevent privation.
 - Utilities assistance for payment of deposits or payment of bills to prevent utility termination.
 - Essential transportation assistance for ill family member or to meet daily family needs.
 - Clothing assistance essential for daily living.
 - Fire or disaster assistance to meet essential needs to preclude privation of undue hardship.
 - To prevent privation or family members due to valid causes.

(Many requests require documentation.)

AER numbers are:

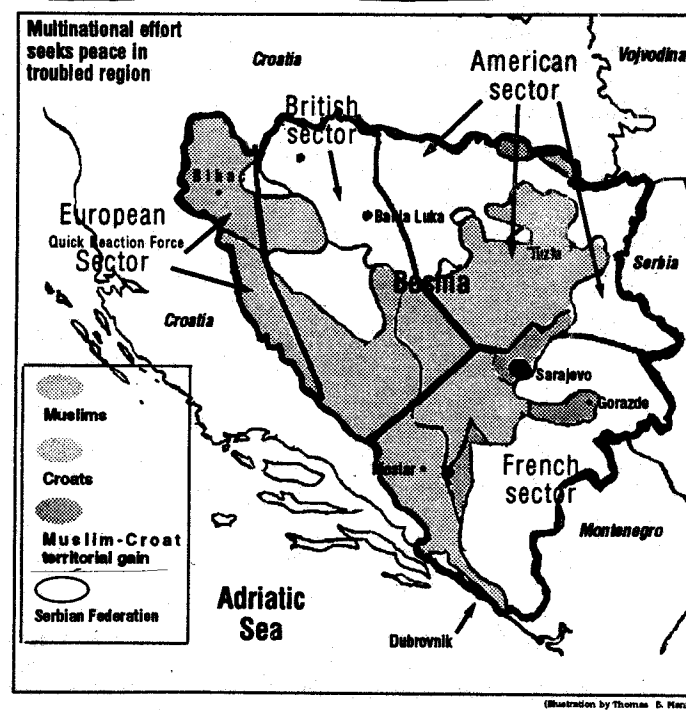
Fort Myer (703) 696-0167

Fort Belvoir (703) 805-4590

Fort Meade (301) 677-5662

Fort Ritchie (301) 878-5100

Area Map



PART II - BALKAN FACTS

Geography

Location: On the Balkan Peninsula in the south-east corner of Europe, Bosnia-Herzegovina shares borders to the west and north with Croatia, with Serbia to the east and Montenegro to the south-east. It has a short western coastline, which is about 12 mile, on the Adriatic Sea.

Size: It covers about 19,741 square miles (51,129 square kilometers) — which makes it slightly larger than Tennessee.

Terrain: The northern part is mountainous and covered with thick forests. The southern part is composed largely of rocky hills and flat farmland.

Highest Point: Mount Plocna, 7,310 ft.

Capital: The capital of Bosnia-Herzegovina is Sarajevo, with an estimated 1993 population of 383,000. It was the site of the 1984 Winter Olympics.

Climate: Hot summers and cold winters, with a steady rainfall throughout the year. Areas of high elevation have short, cool summers and long, severe winters; mild winters along the coast.

People and Government

Population: 4,364,000 (March 1991) — That's a little less than the population of the state of Georgia.

The population density is 85.6 per square kilometer. The citizens refer to themselves as Bosnians, Croats or Serbians. Many Muslims refer to themselves as Bosniaks.

Languages: Bosnian, Croatian and Serbian are the different names for the same spoken language used by most of the population (commonly referred to as Serbo-Croatian); there are some differences between pronunciation and usage. Two different alphabets are used: the Serbs use the Cyrillic script like Russian; the Croats and Bosnians use a Roman script.

Ethnic Groups: Bosnian Muslims make up 44 percent, Serbs 33 percent and Croats 17 percent of the population. **RELIGION:** 40 percent are Slavic Muslim, 31 percent are Orthodox, 15 percent Catholic and 4 percent are Protestant.

The Republic of Herzegovina: President of the presidency — Alija Izetbegovic; president

of the parliament — Miro Lazovic; vice president of the parliament - Mariofil Ljubic.

The Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina: — Kresimir Zubak; vice president — Ejup Ganic; chairman of the constituent assembly — Mariofil Ljubic.

Government of the Federation and Republic of Bosnia Herzegovina: Prime minister — Haris Silajdzic; deputy prime minister — Jadranko Prlic.

Time, Money, Economy

Time: Bosnia-Herzegovina is in the same time zone as the rest of Western Europe, including Germany and Italy. So if it's 1 p.m. in Sarajevo, it's 1 p.m. in Germany or Italy, 7 a.m. on the East Coast of the United States and 4 a.m. on the U.S. West Coast.

Money: In territory controlled by the Bosnia-Herzegovina army, the local currency is called BH Dinars.

It does not have a smaller unit. On the territory of Herceg Bosnia, the local currency is called Croat Kuna. German Deutsche marks are the

most widely accepted foreign currency and may be exchanged in BH banks for local currency.

Economy: Ranked next to the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia as the poorest republic in the old Yugoslav federation.

Although agriculture has been almost all in private hands, farms have been small and inefficient, and the republic has traditionally been a net importer of food.

Industry has been greatly over staffed, one reflection of the rigidities of communist central planning and management. Bosnia-Herzegovina hosted a large share of Yugoslavia's defense plants. Interethnic warfare in the past three years has caused production to plummet, unemployment and inflation to soar.

The country receives substantial amounts of humanitarian aid from the international community.

History

Bosnia-Herzegovina was part of the Roman Empire during the first centuries of the Christian era. After the fall of Rome, the area was contested

between Byzantium and Rome's successors in the West. By the 7th century A.D. it was settled by Slavs.

The 9th century saw the establishment of the neighboring kingdoms of Serbia and Croatia. In the 11-12th centuries, Bosnia came under the authority of the kings of Hungary.

Around 1200 A.D., Bosnia fought for and gained its independence. In the 14th century, the Ottoman Turks embarked on their conquest of the Balkans.

The provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina formed part of the Turkish (Ottoman) Empire for almost 400 years before the annexation to the Austro-Hungarian Empire in 1878. The population of the provinces was composed of an ethnic mixture of Orthodox Serbs, Roman Catholic Croats and Muslims (mainly Bosnian Slavs who had converted to Islam).

Austria-Hungary attempted to end Serbian expansionism in 1914 by declaring war on Serbia; this conflict was to escalate into World War I. Dec. 4, 1918, the Kingdom of Serbs, Croats and Slovenes was proclaimed when the Serbs and Croats agreed with other ethnic groups to establish a common state under the Serbian monarchy.

The provinces of Bosnia-Herzegovina formed part of the new kingdom. Bitter disputes ensued between Serbs and Croats, however, and in January 1929 King Alexander imposed a dictatorship, changing the name of the country to Yugoslavia.

During World War II Josip Broz Tito's partisans, who were from a variety of ethnic groups, dominated most of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They waged war against invading German and Italian troops, the Ustasa regime in Croatia and the Serb-dominated Chetniks.

After the war, Bosnia-Herzegovina became one of the six constituent republics of the Yugoslav federation.

In the 1960s, Tito increased Muslim representation in Bosnia-Herzegovina. In 1971 Slav Muslims were granted a distinct ethnic status. With Tito's death in 1980, it became increasingly difficult to keep together the six federal republics comprised by Yugoslavia.

The Current Conflict

As Yugoslavia disintegrated, Bosnian Muslims and Bosnian Croats attempted to create an independent Bosnia-Herzegovina, but the Bosnian Serbs opposed it.

In the spring of 1992, independence was declared and officially recognized by the international community. However, the Bosnian Serbs created their own separate Serbian republic within Bosnia-Herzegovina and removed their members from the government.

In 1992, the Bosnian Serbs, assisted by the Federal Army of Serbia, attempted to carve out land for itself within Bosnia.

The Federal and Bosnian Serb armies under Gen. Ratko Mladic, aided by paramilitary groups, began seizing territory in northern and eastern Bosnia, expelled much of the non-Serb population, and engaged in ethnic cleansing, in which intimidation or violence were used to remove all members of other ethnic groups from the area. They also laid siege to Sarajevo.

At the same time, a large group of Bosnian Croats decided to break away, taking most of

the remaining territory in Bosnia to form a union called Herceg-Bosna. This led to fighting between formerly allied Bosnian Croats and Bosnian Muslims.

In 1992, the United Nations imposed economic sanctions and sent about 8,000 UNPROFOR troops to protect noncombatants and the safe zones.

The U.N. also demanded Bosnia remain a single country and not be partitioned into three separate, ethnically pure states. This U.N. policy was incorporated into the Vance-Owen peace plan, but it was rejected by the Bosnian Serbs.

Later that year, the U.N. came up with the Owen-Stoltenberg plan (almost opposite to the former U.N. plan), which was rejected by the Bosnian Muslims.

As the atrocities and casualties continued to mount, the U.N. Security Council in June 1993 agreed upon a resolution. It called for the deployment of up to 25,000 additional U.N. soldiers and gave them the mandate to use force to defend safe areas.

Several cease-fires were also negotiated, but were quickly violated. Because of U.N. sanctions,

the Federal Army withdrew all official support from the Bosnian Serbs.

In February 1994, during one cease-fire, the Croatian and Bosnian governments resumed their alliance and formed a Joint Federation to oppose the Serbs. In May 1994, the United States, France, Britain, Germany and Russia (the Contact Group) endorsed a plan to leave 51 percent of Bosnia under control of the new Bosnian-Croat Federation, while awarding 49 percent to the Bosnian Serbs. The Bosnian Serbs rejected this plan and continued their attacks.

In 1994 it was estimated that, since the beginning of the civil conflict in Bosnia-Herzegovina, more than 200,000 people had been killed and many more wounded, while more than 2.7 million people (about 60 percent of the pre-war population) had been displaced.

Following NATO air strikes and attacks by the combined Bosnian Muslim and Croatian armies in the late summer and early fall of 1995, the Bosnian Serbs again considered the peace plan.

A cease-fire was declared Oct. 12 to be followed by peace talks with the objective of negotiating a final peace plan.

Once this plan was signed by all the warring factions, NATO and other military forces were to establish a peace-implementation force in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

On Nov. 21, 1995, in Dayton, Ohio, leaders of the warring factions agreed to divide Bosnia into a Bosnian-Serb entity and a Muslim-Croat federation, whose capital would be Sarajevo.

The peace accord was signed in Paris Dec. 14. A 60,000-troop NATO force had been promised to help maintain the peace among the factions, of which the United States had pledged 20,000.

Defense Forces

Before the current crisis, the warring factions were part of the Yugoslav National army, or JNA. The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia Army, or JA, came into being in May 1992. It is made up of two-thirds of the former Yugoslav National Army and is subordinate to the Yugoslav government.

The JA has 250,000 men, 800-900 tanks, 740 armored personnel carriers and 1,400 field guns and howitzers.

The Bosnian Serb Army, or BSA, comprises 85,000 troops and uses heavy weapons to com-

pensate for lack of manpower. It has received support from the JA and can count on large numbers of irregular soldiers, often called Chetniks.

Ultrnationalist paramilitary groups, like Arkan's Tigers and the White Eagles, also conduct military operations in Bosnia and are suspected of committing some of the worst atrocities of the war.

The Croatian army, HV, is divided into three components: the Regular Army, Home Defense Force and Army Reserve. The Regular Army numbers about 45,000 and is made up mainly of conscripts.

The Home Defense Force is about 75,000 men and is formed in each Croatian district, with cities responsible for raising and supplying these units. The Croatian Army Reserve numbers approximately 150,000 men.

The Croatian Defense Council, called the HVO, was created to provide local defense. Recently four professional brigades have been created from Opstina brigades while Home Defense Forces are used to provide security and logistical support.

These professional brigades are well trained and are used as elite/shock troops in vital operations.

The Army of Bosnia-Herzegovina, or ABiH, was formed from territorial-defense forces in Bosnia-Herzegovina and numbers approximately 52,000 troops.

The ABiH is aided by a small number of Mujahadeen and other volunteers from Islamic countries, often used for shock troops because of their fundamentalist-inspired fanaticism.

Historically, it was the least well-equipped of the warring factions, but has a large arms and ammunition-manufacturing capability.

Religion and Sensitivities

Bosnia-Herzegovina is divided into three major religious/cultural groups: Islam, the largest group (Muslim Slavs), comprises approximately 44 percent of the population and makes up most of the government, another 17 percent of the population is made up of Croats who are mostly Roman Catholic and allied with the Bosnian Muslims.

The Serbs are Eastern-Orthodox and make up approximately 31 percent of the population. The remainder of the population is 4 percent Protestant and 4 percent other religions.

Because of the close identification of these ethnic groups with their religion, it is extremely important for outsiders to be respectful and sensitive to religious matters and the customs of the country.

Meeting the Media

A family member who is well informed through command information channels can be an excellent public spokesperson. Reporters want family members' perspective of deployments.

The Public Affairs Office staff can assist you in preparing for interviews; however, some reporters will ask spontaneous questions of anyone.

- Know who you are talking to. Accredited media will usually be escorted by public-affairs staff or have authorization to operate in the area. When in doubt, call the PAO.

- Listen to the question. If you are unsure of a question, ask the reporter to repeat it or clarify it. Take time to think about your answer.

- Be honest. There is nothing wrong with saying, "I don't know," or "I can't tell you." However, don't lie to the reporter.

- Limit your comments to areas with which you are thoroughly familiar. Avoid hypothetical questions.

- Anything you say is on the record. Assume that anything you say will appear in print or on the air.

— Do not discuss classified or sensitive information. If you're not sure if a topic is sensitive or classified, don't talk about it.

— Keep your answers brief and to the point. Broadcasters will edit your 30 seconds of comments into a single three- to five-second sound bite.

— Relax and be yourself. Reporters are interviewing you because of who you are; do not try to be anyone else.

The MDW Public Affairs Office can be reached at (202) 685-2891 or 2892.

Other Public Affairs Offices within MDW are:

FMMC PAO	(703) 696-3944 or 3283
Fort Belvoir PAO	(703) 805-2034
Fort Meade PAO	(301) 677-1361 or 1362
Fort Ritchie PAO	(301) 878-5074

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FOR THE COMMANDER:

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Colonel, GS

Chief of Staff

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A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "P.E. Dickerson", written over the printed name.

P.E. DICKERSON

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